

Hana to Yume COMICS

● MIDORIKAWA
Yuki's Works

・ Hana to Yume COMICS ・

Akaku Saku Koe Vol. 1-3

Atsui Hibi

Hiiro no Isu Vol. 1-3

Hotarubi no Mori E

Natsume Yuujinchou Vol. 1-2

NATSUME YUJINCHOU

MIDORIKAWA Yuki

1



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INTRODUCTION

Natsume's a lonely boy who keeps it a secret that he can see spirits. One day, he comes into possession of something of his deceased grandmother's, Reiko's, that contains binding contracts with spirits. Together with his (self-styled) cat bodyguard, Natsume spends his days returning their names to the spirits!



Hana to Yume COMICS

SUMMARY

Natsume keeps it a secret that he can see spirits. He comes into possession of something of his deceased grandmother's, Reiko's, that contains binding contracts with spirits. Ever since then, he's been chased by spirits. Together with his cat bodyguard, Natsume spends his days returning their names to the spirits! The first volume in a strange story!

■ Serialized in LALA ■

Hakusensha



NATSUME YUJINCHOU 1

MIDORIKAWA Yuki

Hakusensha

Nature Yuujinchou

by Midorikawa Yuki

Brought to you by
Dragon Voice &
Storm in Heaven

The Credits

Scanner:
Lelci

Translator:
Kalendel

Editor:
mangawiverse

QC checker:
Kalendel

<http://www.dragonvoice.org>
#dragonvoice@icloudhighway.net

<http://www.storminheaven.net>
#storminheaven@icloudhighway.net



Hana to Yume Comics

NATSUME YUJINCHOU

CHAPTER 1
MIDORIKAWA YUKI



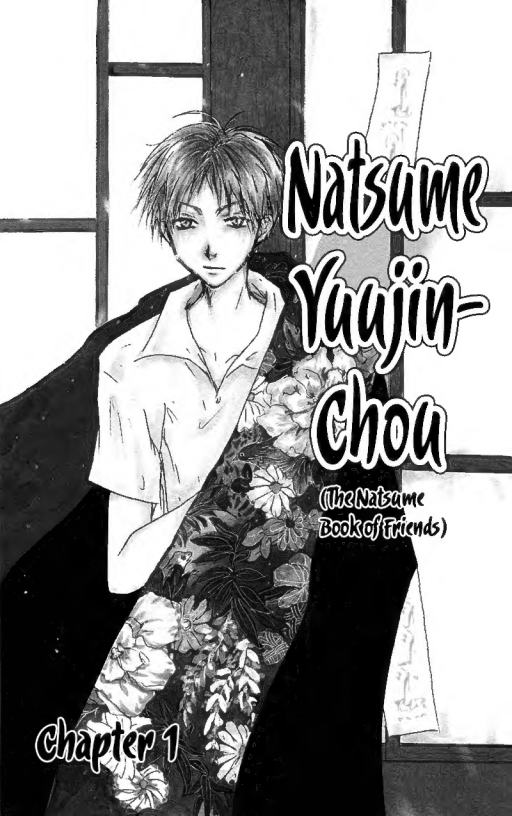


This is a work of
fiction. It is in no
way related to
any real persons,
organizations,
or events.

■ Contents

Chapter 1	5
Chapter 2	55
Chapter 3	105
Chapter 4	155
Postscript	195

Natsume
Yuujinchou
(Book of Friends)



Natsume Yuujin- cho

(The Natsume
Book of Friends)

Chapter 1

...gone?

Where
has she...

Where
is she?





I WISH I
COULDN'T SEE
THIS THING
EITHER...

Ever since I
was a little
kid, some-
times I'd see
weird things.

I was told
that maybe
they were
spirits.

Just

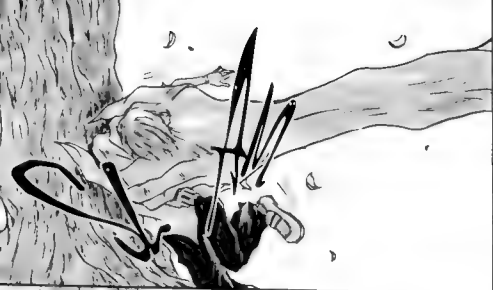
Usually if I can
get to a shrine
and hide out
there, they quit
following
me...

But for
some reason,
recently some
are popping
up that come
after me.

They used
to be nice
enough,

ANOTHER
ONE? WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING ON...?

whoosh



Reiko...?

WAT

?

Got it back

At last

Got you, Reiko

Got you.

Got you.

Ann.



It's not like
I want to
see them!

What the
hell is going
on!?

Why do I
always...

HUFF

HUFF

"Humm? Three plates is enough, Takashi."

"Eh? Then what about our guest...?"



"He's probably
lonely."

"We must be
doing something
wrong."

"It's just creepy.
Why does he
always do
that..."



"Huh?"



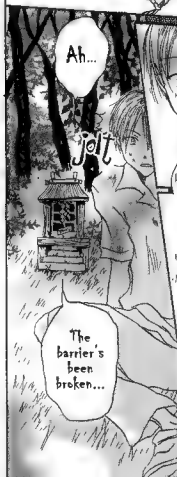
"I'm sure he's just
making it up."

"We..."

"Sorry, Takashi.
I don't see
anything."



"...just don't understand"



The barrier's been broken...

Well
done,
kid.

SHAKE SHAKE jump

A...
SHRINE
?!

SHIT, THAT
BARRIER WAS
PROBABLY
SEALING IN
SOMETHING
BAD!

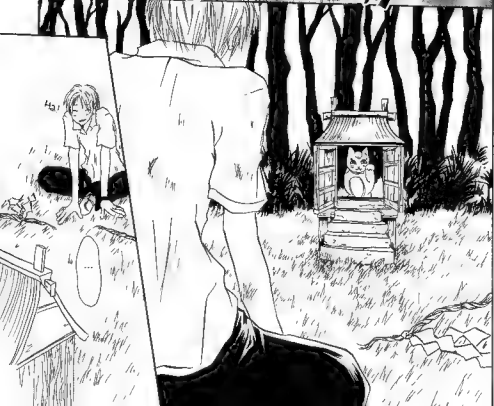
I can
come
out.

Ahh!

SHAKE
SHAKE

SLAM

Ho!







SO REIKO
AMUSED
HERSELF
WITH
SPIRITS.

UGH,
THINGS
JUST
TOOK A
TURN.

AWAYS,
AWAYS...

...ALONE.

CHIRP
CHIRP

DO...

BOOK
OF...?

...YOU
KNOW
OF THE
BOOK OF
FRIENDS?

YOU'RE
BEING
PURSUED?

BECAUSE
OF THE
BARRIER,
LOW-CLASS
SPIRITS
WOVN'T COME
NEAR.



The Fujiwaras recently took me in. A husband and wife, relatives of my father.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU RUN AROUND, BUT TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

haha... sorry

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE ALL PALE.

YOU'RE OUT IN THIS HEAT WITHOUT EVEN A HAT!

They're nice folks.

WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY?

GOT IT.

I keep it a secret that I can see spirits.

I don't want them to think I'm weird...

RUSTLE

"BOOK OF FRIENDS"

IT WOULD BE WITH MY GRANDMA'S OLD THINGS

"BOOK OF FRIENDS"



こんにちは 緑川です。
いよいよ九冊目の
コミックスです。

マンガ家になっての
初冊目標、コミックス
十冊目まであと一冊。
手に取ってくださった方、
編集部の皆さま、本当に
ありがとうございます。
これからもマンガを
描きつづけていけるよう
頑張ります。
おつきあい頂けるよう
日々精進致しますね。

この「夏目」は、
隔月雑誌向きに
完全読切として描ける
設定として考えました。
現在の担当S様と
初めて一緒に創った
思い出深い作品です。

少しでも楽しんで
頂けると幸いです。





SO SHE
WOULD KEEP
HERSELF
ENTERTAINED
BY PLAYING
ALL SORTS OF
GAMES AND
THINGS WITH
SPIRITS.

REIKO
DIDN'T GET
ALONG
WELL WITH
PEOPLE,

THOSE PIECES
OF PAPER ARE
COLLECTED IN
THE "BOOK OF
FRIENDS"

...BUT WHY
WOULD YOU
WANT SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT?

THOSE SHE WON
AGAINST HAD TO
PROMISE TO BE
HER FOLLOWERS,
AND TO MAKE
THEM KEEP THEIR
PROMISE, SHE
WROTE DOWN
THEIR NAMES
ON PIECES OF
PAPER.

BECAUSE
HER SPIRITUAL
POWER WAS
SO STRONG...
IT AMOUNTED
TO HER
BULLYING
THEM.



BECAUSE ..



IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU CAN
CONTROL
VARIOUS
SPIRITS.

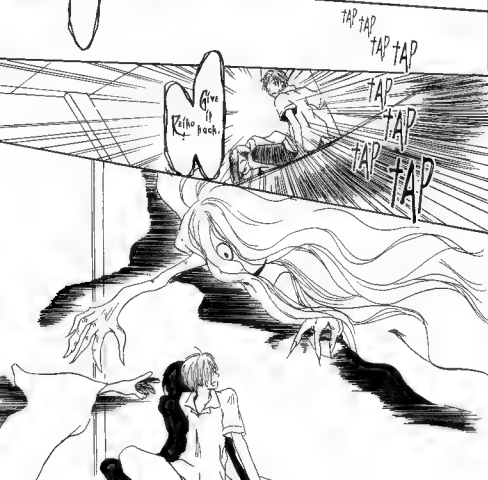
IF SOMEONE
HAS THE
PAPER, AND
CALLS OUT A
NAME, THEIR
COMMANDS
CANNOT BE
DENIED.

※モノログ

正直ちょっと苦手です。
 (読むのは好きですが)
 心象を示すものは特に
 ヒヤッとします。それは
 装現うんぬんではなく、
 心内が現けてしまった
 キャラクターには、魅力を
 感じなくなって描けなく
 なるってしまうことが
 あるからです。
 底が知れると冷めて
 しまうので、極力事態の
 説明とか、相手との
 距離を測るか示すもの
 くらいにおさえたいな
 と思っています。
 女の子キャラは、そういう
 モノログが色づけに
 なって良いのですが、
 男の子キャラには
 出来れば気持ちを
 読みとらせないでほしい
 ので、大事にしてやり
 たいほどモノログが
 少ない気がします。
 その点では夏目は一苦労。
 夏目が女の子だったら
 こんな所で悩まなくて
 すむのに、と描いていて
 何度も思いました。
 けれど「夏目少年と
 人外の先生」という
 フレーズで描きたいと
 思った話だったので、
 悩んでなんぼな作品
 なのかもしれません。









RUSTLE

LAFF

NATSUME'S
RUNNING
AWAY?
WE'LL
NOW ..

5/2m



THEY
FOLLOWED
ME.



WHERE
ARE YOU
HEADED?

CAT!
You're
heavy!

THUD

!!









I'M PRETTY
MUCH HER
LAST RELATIVE,
SO I'VE GOT
TO REMEMBER
HER, AND TAKE
CARE OF HER
THINGS...

SO MAYBE
MY GRANDMA
DIDN'T GET
ALONG WITH
PEOPLE VERY
WELL.

THERE AREN'T
THAT MANY
"PEOPLE" WHO
REMEMBER HER.
SHE DIED SO
YOUNG THAT
EVEN MY MOM,
HER DAUGHTER,
PROBABLY DIDN'T
REMEMBER
HER.

I CAN'T
JUST SAY
IT'S GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
ME.

I WANT TO
HAVE SOME-
THING TO
REMEMBER
HER BY.

YOU IDIOT,
JUST DROP IT,
IT'S BEYOND
YOU! DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
HOW MANY
NAMES THERE
ARE?!

THE
NAMES.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
TO RETURN
THEM?

SLIDE

I WANT
TO AVOID
TROUBLE AS
MUCH AS
POSSIBLE.

IF I CAN
RETURN THEM,
I WANT TO DO
IT RIGHT AWAY.

RETURN
WHAT?

I'LL BE FINE.
I'VE GOT YOU
LOOKING
AFTER ME,
DON'T I?

THE PROCESS
IS SIMPLE, BUT
YOU WON'T LAST
LONG. YOU'D
HAVE A LOT OF
BRUTAL OPPO-
NENTS.

You should give
up on the idea.

PLEASE
LEND ME
YOUR
POWER.

EVEN IF IT
KILLS ME,
I'LL DIS-
SOLVE THE
BOOK OF
FRIENDS.

WHAT
?!

I DIDN'T
WANT
TO GET
INVOLVED
IN THIS
STUFF,

BUT THE
TRUTH IS
THAT MY
GRANDMA
OWED THE
SPIRITS.



YEAH.

WHEN YOU FALL, CAN I REALLY HAVE THE BOOK?

CAN I?



...

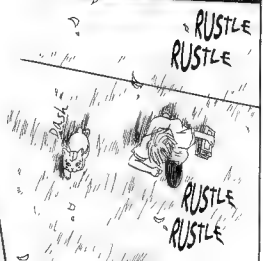
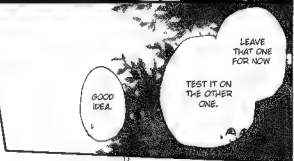
Mooosh

THANKS.



VERY WELL...

I'LL PERSONALLY KEEP TABS ON YOU.



PICTURE THE
SPIRIT IN
YOUR MIND
AND OPEN
THE BOOK.

THEN THE
BOOK WILL
AUTOMATI-
CALLY FIND
THE RIGHT
PAGE.

He
must
do
me.
Show
me
my
name.

HURRY
UP

YOU'RE
HEAVY,
CAT!

IT'S
HERE
!

AH,



Sigh

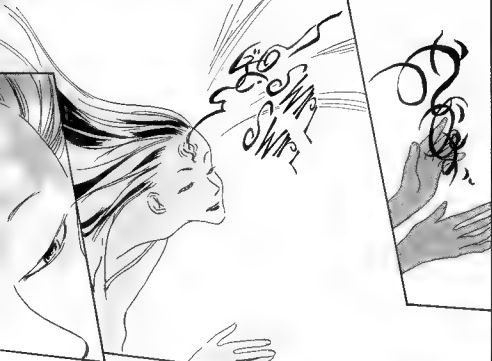
SMW
SMW
SMW



I'm
returning
it to
you
Accept it.

"Korikage"







NEXT
IS...

YOU
LOOK
PRETTY
PALE.

RUSTLE

IT WENT
HOME?

ONE
DOWN

YOU
MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO PULL
THIS
OFF

YEAH...



HM?

...ER,
NO?

...DID YOU
SEE SOME-
THING?

OH...

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



HAND
THE TASK
OVER TO
ME.

Come
on!

ENOUGH

ALREADY
!



YOU
WORSE?

IT TOOK
MORE OUT
OF ME THAN
I THOUGHT
IT WOULD...

OF
COURSE!
YOU CAN'T
TAKE SUCH
OPPO-
NENTS
LIGHTLY!

RIGHT
HERE,
RIGHT
NOW,





Every time
you bite
down on a
name...

uh...

what
flows
into
you...

Ah!

BITE

Whoosh



...ly.

...is
what
was
stored
either the
spirit's
memories
or my
grandma's
thoughts
...

Lonely.

Hungry...



YOU KNOW,
IF YOU PLAY A
GAME WITH ME
AND WIN, I'LL
TREAT YOU TO A
MEAL THERE.

IF YOU WANT
SOMETHING
GOOD, I'D REC-
OMEND THE
NANATSUJI
SHOP.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING, YOU
HUMAN?
THAT'S
MINE!

NAH,
'CAUSE...

YOU
DON'T
THINK
I'M
SCARY?

HEY
HEY

YOU'RE
MEAN

Tremble
Tremble

I'M REALLY
POWERFUL.

'CAUSE
I'M
CREEPY,
THEY
SAID.

I JUST
GOT A
ROCK
THROWN
AT ME.

I'VE BEEN
WONDERING,
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
CHEEK?

THERE!

FWUMP

AHH!

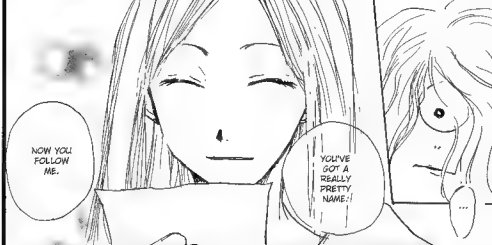
OW!

UAAAAAAAA

FWUMP

THERE!

THUD
THUD



Reiko...

Give it back

Give it back



If no matter
how long I
wait...

Lonely,

Lonely...

So much
more lonely
than before.



Ohh,
you're still
not going
to call it?



-you're
not going
to call me.
then...

"HIS-
GAK!"



I DOUBT...

MY
GRAND-
MA WAS
EVER
ALONE.

WILL
YOU BE
ALL RIGHT
ALL BY
YOUR-
SELF?

REKO

WILL YOU
BE OKAY
NOW?

THANK YOU,
HISHIGAKI.

my grand-
mother's
friend...

THANK
YOU.

You have
a kind
heart.

DID YOU
GET TO MEET
REIKO? I BET
SHE WAS
QUITE A
BULLY.

CHIRP
CHIRP

...waited for the
spirits to visit
her, coming
after the book.

MAYBE...

Reiko
probably...

Most of
them
were
lonely.

CHIRP

I WON A
GAME AGAINST
HER, AND THEN
WOUND UP
VISITING EVERY
NOW AND THEN
TO PLAY
MORE.

YOU WON'T
FIND MY
NAME IN
THERE.

The spirits...

...who always
lived by them-
selves, were
lonely...

I DIDN'T
THINK THERE
WAS ANYONE
TO INHERIT
HER THINGS,

SO I
THOUGHT
I'D TAKE
CHARGE OF
THE BOOK,
BUT...

...

BUT ONE
DAY...

I'D FOR-
GOTTEN HOW
FLEETING
YOUR LIVES
ARE. .

I JUST
DECIDED
TO STOP.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO TAKE
CHARGE
OF IT,
NATSUME?

YEAH, I
WANT TO.

CHIRP

And after
that...

CHIRP
CHIRP

filled with
spirits.



I didn't
really grow
to like it.

Chirp
Chirp

Chirp

Chirp

Tip
Tip

Tip
Tip

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
FOLLOW
ME EVERY-
WHERE,
YOU KNOW

However...

IT'S LIKE
I SAID, I'VE
GOT TO SEE
IT THROUGH
MYSELF.

BUT I NEVER
KNOW WHEN
I'LL BE ABLE
TO GET THE
BOOK.



...and good
ones.

there are
both bad
encoun-
ters...

LET'S
GET
SOME!

WHAT?!

I HEARD
THE BUNS
THERE ARE
REALY
GOOD.

HEY,

Surpr
First Entry

CHIRP

OH!

CHIRP

HM? ARE
YOU SLRE
CATS ARE
ALLOWED
TO HAVE
SWEETS?

CHIRP

I TOLD
YOU I'M
NOT A
CAT!

CHIRP
CHIRP

Notame Yumijindou

by Midorikawa Yuki

Dragon Voice &
Story in Heart

The Credits

Scanner:
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QC checker:
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(The Natsume
Book of Friends)

Chapter 2

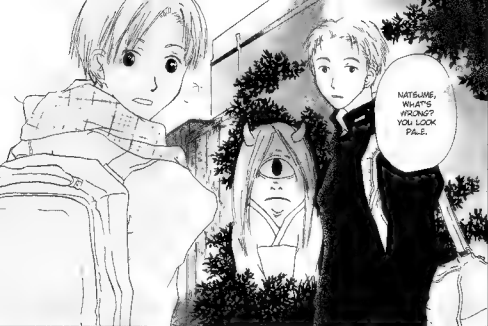
Since it doesn't
seem like other
people can see
them, maybe...

Ever since I
was a kid, I'd
sometimes
see weird
things.



They're what
you'd call
spirits.

NATSUME.



A close-up of a woman with long, straight hair, a single large eye, and small horns. She is wearing a light-colored kimono with a dark collar.

NATSUME
REIKO,
YES?

A small figure of a person wearing a dark, hooded robe, standing in a misty or foggy environment.

REIKO'S
MY
GRAND-
MA.
SHE'S
PASSED
ON.

A large, close-up shot of Natsume Reiko's face. She has a wide, gentle smile and is looking directly at the viewer.

Reiko,

I hear
you have the
"book of
friends".

A close-up of a person's face, showing a wide-eyed, surprised expression. The word "PUSH" is written in large, stylized letters over the image.

NATSUME





The "book of friends" was something that belonged to my grandmother.



My grandma Reiko had tremendous spiritual power, and utterly crushed many spirits.

In other words, with the book in her hands, she could make all those spirits obey her.

If she called the names on them, they could never disobey her. All of these contracts were gathered together in the "book of friends".

To prove that they'd become her followers, she wrote down their names on strips of paper.



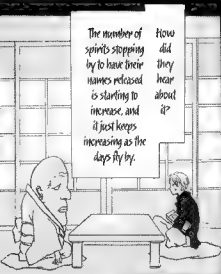
I'm home!



CHOCK
NATSUME.

Though I was kinda forced into it, considering I'm the one keeping track of the book, it's my duty to protect it - and it's got to be the most annoying thing in the world.

Because of that, there are lots of things out after the book (including the cat).



The number of spirits stopping by to have their names released is starting to increase, and it just keeps increasing as the days fly by.

How did they hear about it?

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU RETURNED MY NAME.

MAY I COME IN?



DEAD TRED I'M BEAT YEAH

FLOP

HMM, YOU RETURNED ANOTHER NAME?

toddle toddle



I'M BACK.



It's easy to return the names.

When I form an image of the spirit in my mind, and open the book,

The book automatically flips to the right page.

Then I put the paper in my mouth, press my hands together, and blow out shunpy.

The name is released from the page and returned to the spirit...

How-
ever...

Ugh.



It totally wipes me out.

WHAT A GOODY-GOODY THE BOOK'S JUST GETTING THINNER AND THINNER ..

MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EAT THE BRAT.

Right now.

I CAN HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW, YOU BOGUS CAT.



TAKASHI, SUPPER!

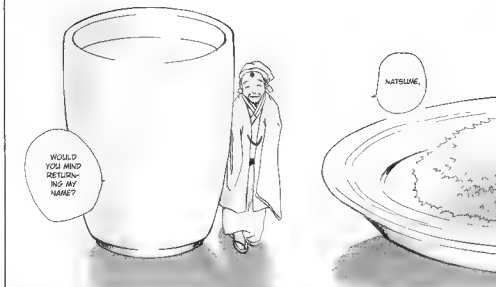
MY HUSBAND'S GOING TO BE LATE, SO LET'S GO AHEAD AND EAT.

WOULD YOU MIND GETTING THAT RADISH FOR ME?



Since I don't have any close relatives,
the Fujiwara family took me in.





WOULD
YOU MIND
RETURN-
ING MY
NAME?

NATSUME,



OH, YOU'RE
TSUYUKAMI,
RIGHT?

YOU
KNOW
HIM?

HE'S
TINY

I'M SORRY
FOR SUR-
PRISING
YOU IN THE
MIDDLE OF
YOUR
MEAL

splurt

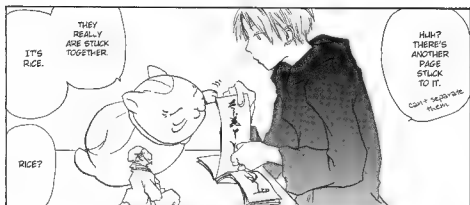


YUP,
THOUGH
I DIDN'T
KNOW HE'D
GOTTEN SO
SMALL...

HM, THAT
VOICE .. IS
THAT YOU,
MADARA?

WHAT'S
GOT YOU
STUCK LIKE
THAT?





IT'S
RICE.

THEY
REALLY
ARE STUCK
TOGETHER.

HUH?
THERE'S
ANOTHER
PAGE
STUCK
TO IT.

CAN'T SEPARATE
THEM.

RICE?



I'LL TRY
PEELING
THEM
APART.

REKO WAS KIND
OF SLOPPY, SO
SHE WOULD FLIP
THROUGH IT WHILE
EATING, I BET.

GRAND-
MA...

RUB
RUB

AHHH!

BE CAREFUL
NOT TO TEAR
IT! MY SKIN'S
VIBRATING
ALL OVER!



THAT'S
WHY THEY
WANT
THEIR
NAMES
BACK.

IT'S LIKE I
SAID BEFORE,
NATSUME. IF
YOU TEAR THE
NAMES, YOU'LL
WIND UP
TEARING
THEM.

IF YOU
BURN THE
PAGES,
THEY'LL
BECOME
ASH AS
WELL.



I'LL
TAKE
IT.

OK,
THANKS.

IF THEY
AREN'T
DAMAGED,
FEEL FREE
TO TAKE
ONE. IT'S
MORE THAN
I CAN EAT
ALONE.

HOW
KIND
OF YOU

MY,

ORANGES?

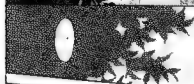
THEY
FELL
ARE
YOU
OK?



YES,
IT IS.



THE
WEATHER'S
GREAT,
ISN'T IT?



SO YOU
REALLY
ARE ONE
OF THOSE
SPIRITS
THAT EATS
PEOPLE?

OF
COURSE.

I'D
BETTER
BE CARE-
FUL

SHE
DIDN'T
SMELL
VERY
GOOD.

toodle
toodle
toodle



Sigh

THAT LADY
DOESN'T
HAVE VERY
LONG

HUH?

AND
SHE
EVEN
GAVE
ME AN
ORANGE.

IF I
COULD
JUST
COME UP
WITH
SLIGHTLY
MORE
CLEVER
RESPONS-
ES.

I hate it
when I
freeze up in
situations
like that.

I'LL...
I'LL BE
CURSED!
STUPID
REIKO...

Impokke
called
him a
foggy
tossed
him
outside

Last Night's Indiscre- tions

OH, NO YOU
COULD CALL ME
ONE, BUT I'M
ORIGINALLY
JUST A WAN-
DERING SPIRIT
THAT SETTLED
DOWN HERE.

WAIT,
LIVES
AT A
SHRINE...
YOU
MEANT
HE'S A
GOD?

The next thing
I knew,
I'd become
powerful and
my form had
grown.

After that, the
villagers came to
this shrine to
worship and
give offerings to
"Tsuyukami".

The next
day it
just hap-
pened to
me.

Once there
was a dry
spell, and a
villager
came to
pray.



WANT

AN
ORANGE?



OH

AS THE
FAITH THAT
HAD MADE
ME GROW
FADED,
I TOO
SHRANK

BACK
THEN,
TRUE
NOWADAYS
HARDLY
ANYONE
EVER
COMES
HERE

WHEN I
MET REIKO,
YOU WERE
NEARLY AS
BIG AS A
HUMAN.



HMP?

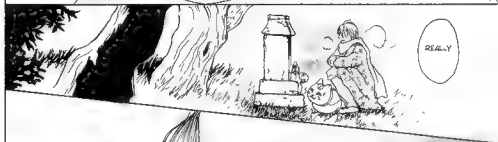
I SEE

OH!

THAT'D BE
HANA. SHE
COMES
HERE TO
PRAY.

I MET A NICE
OLD LADY
BACK THERE.
DID SHE BRING
THE ORANGE
AND FLOWERS
...?

HEH, HEH,
I ALREADY
HAVE ONE.



REALY

THAT'S
PROBABLY
THE ONE.
LET ME
DRAW IT
OUT FOR
YOU..

I ONCE CAUGHT
SIGHT OF THE
SPIRIT THAT WAS
RUMORED TO
HAVE ITS NAME
SNATCHED RIGHT
AFTER REIKO
BEAT ME AND
TOOK MINE

NOW, WE
HAVE TO
FIND THE
OTHER
SPIRIT...





I DON'T
REMEMBER
ITS NAME,
BUT THIS
IS IT.

CAN WE
FIND IT
WITH
THIS?

CAN'T I
SUMMON
IT HERE
WITH THE
BOOK'S
POWER?



NO
HAIR?

IT'S
ALL WE
HAVE
TO GO
ON.

IS THIS
RELIABLE?

NO,
NONE.



...SO WHICH
LAKE DOES
BULB-BOY
HERE LIVE
IN?

HE LIVED
ON THE
SANNOSUKA
MOUNTAIN.

NO, HE
ISN'T A
WATER
SPIRIT.

HA

THIS IS
FROM A
MOUNTAIN?

YOU
GUYS

So you
want
to get
cured?



YOU HAVE TO
CALL TO MIND
THE SPIRIT'S
FACE, SPEAK
ITS NAME, AND
THEN YOU CAN
COMMAND IT

YOU DON'T
KNOW ITS
NAME, AND
YOU DON'T
KNOW ITS
FACE.



That day we
began looking
for bulb-boy
(temporary
name) on
Sannozuka.



Give
me the
book of
friends!

Natsume
Rabbit

you you
add this
one to the
next one
get this

scribble

DEAD

NATSUME.

NATSUME.



Why can't
everyone
see them?

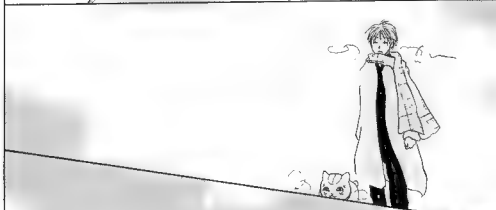
I'm a little
jealous of
them.

AND BESIDES ME,
THERE ARE OTHER
POWERFUL SPIRITS
WHO CAN SHOW
THEMSELVES OF
THEIR OWN WILL.
ALSO, BECAUSE
THEY'RE POWERFUL,
PEOPLE CAN SOME-
TIMES SEE THEM
DEPENDING ON
THE PERSON'S
MOOD AND THE
ENVIRONMENT.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
THE LUCKY
CAT RE-
PRESENTS
ME.

fuddle
fuddle
fuddle

HEY,
PEOPLE
CAN SEE
YOU WHEN
YOU'RE A
CAT.



WELL,
KIND
OF ...

OH,
MY,
EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE SO
YOUNG,
YOU VISIT
SHRINES?

OH,
MY,

Why can't
she see
him?



EHP?!

I THINK I
ACTUALLY
SAW
TSUYUKI-
KAMI.

DON'T
LAUGH,
BUT
ONCE ..



THAT'S
GOOD

WITH ONLY
ME COMING BY
THESE DAYS,
I CAN'T HELP
BUT FEEL
TSUYUKAMI
IS LONELY.

SINCE
I WAS
LITTLE.

. HOW
LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN
VISITING
HERE?

AND THE
WEATHER
WAS
PERFECT

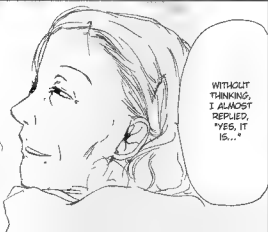
I WAS
ON THE
WAY
BACK
FROM
SCHOOL.

I WAS
SHOCKED,
BUT I PRE-
TENDED NOT TO
SEE ANYTHING.
IT WAS A MAN
WEARING A
MASK, AND HE
MURMURED
CONTENTEDLY
TO HIMSELF,
"TODAY'S NICE
AND WARM."

AS ALWAYS,
I STOPPED
TO PRAY, BUT
WHEN I WAS
ABOUT TO
RAISE MY
HEAD, I SAW
SOMEONE'S
LEG BEHIND
THE SHRINE



BUT I'M
SURE THAT
IF HE KNEW
A HUMAN
HAD SEEN
HIM, HE'D
HAVE DIS-
APPEARED...



WITHOUT
THINKING,
I ALMOST
REPLIED,
"YES, IT
IS..."



THAT I
SHOULD
HAVE
GATHERED
MY
COURAGE
AND
REPLIED.



BUT
EVERY
NOW AND
THEN I
THINK



Maybe

what
god
would
wear a
mark?

BUT NOW
THAT I
THINK OF
IT, HE WAS
PROBABLY
A TRAVEL-
ING ENTER-
TAINER.

HA
HA



JUST
THAT
LITTLE
PHRASE,
"YES,
IT IS."



Is that
why it's
so cold?

ah, I can
hear the
sound of
snow falling.

妖怪モノ①

「あかく咲く声」という作品を描いていた頃、本誌で読切を描く機会を頂きました。夏だったので妖怪モノを描きはじめたのですがもう少し恋愛色強いほうが良いということになりまして、当時その向立は難しく、自分にとって踏み張りの時期だったので急遽設定から他の内容に描き変えることになりました。(そしてその作品にはタメ息をつかされたり、ちょっとしたものを盗ませてもらったりしたのでした。)以後、きちんと恋愛モノを修業しなければという流れになっていき、妖怪モノはすっかり保留となっておりました。修業中、「螢火の杜へ」という作品が頭に降ってきてくれたので妖怪色あるものを書くことができましたが、久しぶりに不思議モノが描けたという喜びが大きく、妖怪描いた〜〜という気分にはなりませんでした。





HOW
ARE YOU
IN THAT
PUNISH

STAY
IN

WAKING ?
I MUST HAVE
REMOVED
MY TAIL
FROM THE
PUNISHMENT
AREA
ASLEEP

I WAKING
AND EATING
THE WHOLE
WAKING
ASLEEP

AHHH!







IT REALLY
IS LIVING
ON SAN-
NOZUKA
MOUNTAIN.

I
FOUND
OUR
BULB-
BOY.

TO BE ON
THE SAFE
SIDE, BRING
A ROUND
MIRROR.

SHOULD
WE SPLIT
INTO TWO
GROUPS?

YEAH?

!

SOMETHING
DANGEROUS.

SOME-
THING'S
COMING

IT'S
NOT
HERE.

DID YOU
REALLY
SEE IT
AROUND
HERE?

I CALLED OUT
AND IT RAN
OFF, BUT IT
SHOULD BE
BACK AROUND
HERE AGAIN.

YEAH.

soon

※担当S様

現在の担当S様は、
一見淡々とこなす様な
印象の方なのですが、
お会いしてお話する度、
とても熱い努力家で、
向上心溢れる
ハングリーな方だと
実感します。
讀ることと書くことに
夢中になっていたの
ですが、野心ある方と
細む気持ち良さを
感じ出させて頂きました。
自分にやれるか、と
試していたのを、これは
わかってもらえるか、と
仕掛けていく楽しさ
苦さのある作品を
一緒にうんうん悩んで
創ってくださる方です。
ずっと目指していた方向と
求められている方向の間で
脱線しているのではと
悩む私に根気良く
つきあってくださり、
多くの良い作家を育て
ようと、ご自分も一生
懸命勉強なさっていて、
そのためにも頑張らねばと
思わせてくださる方です。





※妖怪モノ②

そんな担当S様と組み、いきなり押さえていた恋愛色薄い妖怪モノへの野心がムクムクと触発されまして、本作を描かせて頂けることになりました。地元が山や森に近いので、何かがいそう感が漂うところでした。妖怪や神さま、霊的な伝説のありそうな場所や物がたくさんあって、色々妄想させられました。それっぽい地名にはいわれがあり、山や川には大抵逸話があり自然に耳に入って来て、どきどきしたのを思い出します。そういう身近などきどき感を出していきたいです。





MURMUR

What's
this?!

MURMUR

MURMUR

Ah
...

Ah!

"I've come here to
receive food."

"I'm here,
I'm here."

CHATTER

CHATTER

WANT
TO PLAY
A GAME
WITH ME?

"What's
your
name?"

"I'm
Reiko."

"If you win,
you can eat
me."

BADUM

NATSUME!

! Getting

CAT
...!

UGH
..

I know
its name
...

ssst

flave

GET
BACK
!

Gahh!

I can
do it!



"Tsuyu."

CLAP

"Tsuyu-kami."

Huff

I'm
returning
your
wishes.

BITE





And I lost
conscious-
ness.

I
managed
to safely
return
My strength
was drained
away...
their
names,
but...

THAT
"SUSUG"
FELLOW
WAS
PROBABLY

IS
THAT
SO...

THESE DAYS
THERE ARE
FEWER PEOPLE
WHO CAN SEE
SPIRITS, AND
I BET THE
MOUNTAIN
SHADOWS
DON'T REACH
ALL THE WAY
TO THE TOWN
ANYMORE.

THIS SPIRIT I
HEARD OF, ONE
THAT TRAVELED
THROUGH THE
MOUNTAIN
SHADOWS TO A
VILLAGE. IN
EXCHANGE FOR
FOOD SCRAPS
FROM THE
VILLAGERS,
HE'D WASH THE
PERSON'S
DISHES BEFORE
RETURNING
HOME.

OH?

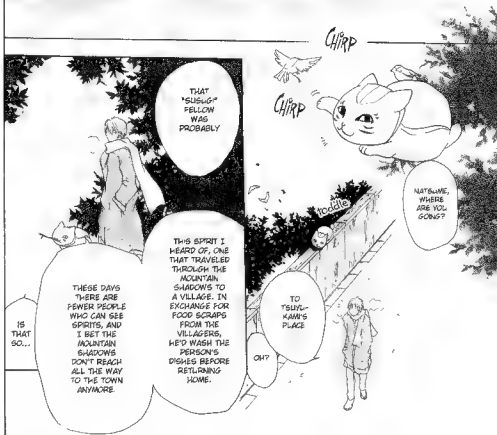
TO
"SUUG"
KAMI'S
PLACE

CHIRP

CHIRP

toddle

NATSUKE,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?











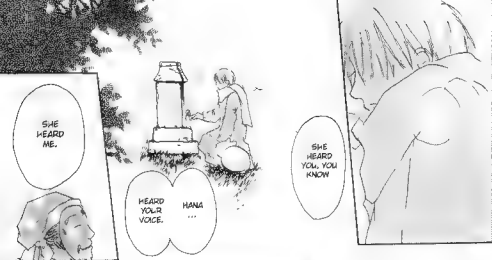
I'VE
WATCHED
OVER HER
FOR SO
VERY
LONG.

BUT
NOW
..



I
FEEL
..

As if I'll
finally
be able to
touch her.



SHE
HEARD
ME.

SHE
HEARD
YOU, YOU
KNOW

HEARD
YOUR
VOICE.

HANA
...

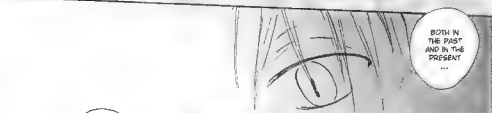


NATSUME
...

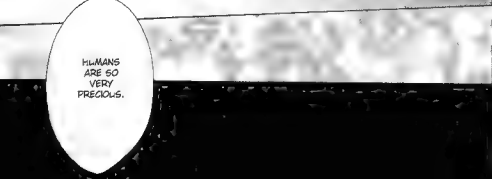
THANK
YOU,



BOTH IN
THE PAST
AND IN THE
PRESENT
...



HUMANS
ARE SO
VERY
PRECIOUS.



"Buyukami, I
can't keep on
bringing you
offerings
forever."

"Thank you,
Reiko."

"In their
selfishness,
people are
unfeeling."

"So long as they
live, they keep
searching to
better their lot."

"But if I'm
loved even
once..."

"And fall
in love
myself"

"That's something
I'll never be able
to forget."





Yes...



And
so...

It's nice
and warm
today.



You came
for me...

THANK YOU,
NATSUME,
MADARA.

My friends.

I'LL
HOLD
YOU
DEAR.





Hehe.
you too,
Madara.

THAT
IDiot
..

Some day
you'll under-
stand.



The snow
piled up until
In the forest: dawn...

In the mountains,

And in the city.

When I think
of the empty
shrine out
there, I feel a
little lonely.
but...

Esukami
met up with
Hana, right?

...the snow that
day wasn't cold



I'm
not exactly
growing fond
of the spirits,
but...

The
busy days
continue.



I suppose
they have
the same
heart...

...that wants to
understand
love.



Notame Yumijindou

by Midorikawa Yuki

Dragon Voice &
Born in Heaven

The Credits

Scanner:
Lelci

Translator:
Kalendel

Editor:
mangauniverse

QC checker:
Kalendel



DragonVoice.org

MidnightDragon

Natsume Yuujinchou

(The Natsume
Book of Friends)



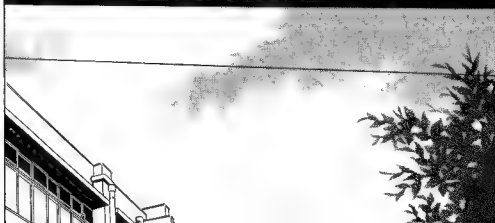
Chapter 3

Since it doesn't
seem like anyone
else can see them,
they're most
likely...

Ever since I
was a child I've
been able to see
strange things.



...what people would call spirits.









1...

...

...can see
"spirits."



Since they are bound by their names it's their very lives that I hold in my hands. No wonder my days are filled with me returning them...

I THINK I
EXPLAINED SOME-
THING

WHAT'S
WRONG,
NATSUME?

HUH?

Natsume

When I inherited
it spirits started
showing up to
have me return
their names
to them.

My grandmother
Reiko had a lot of
spiritual power
and would write
down the names
of spirits on
paper to bind
them to obey
her.

All those
binding
contracts are
gathered in
the "Book of
Friends."

CHIRP

WHY
WERE
YOU IN MY
FUTON,
CAT?

DON'T
SCREAM
AT ME!

AAAAH

CHIRP



Cat is my
self-styled
bodyguard.

CURSED AS I
AM LIKE THIS,
YOU SHOULD
FEEL BAD
FOR ME.

THIS
FORM
OF MINE
GETS
COLD

SURE, BE
CAREFUL..

...YEAH, I
DO STUFF
ALL THE
TIME.

But really, all he
wants is an opportu-
nity to get his hands
on the book.

TAKASHI,
I'M GOING
OUT
SHOPPING

I don't have
any relatives.

HAVE
YOU
MADE
ANY NEW
FRIENDS
HERE
YET?

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
SCHOOL,
SO WHY
DON'T YOU
GO OUT,
TOO?





I'M
OFF

Oh!



clack

And I was
passed around
until the Fuji-
waras took
me in.

I don't want to
cause them any
trouble, so I keep it
a secret that I can
see spirits.



MASTER
NATSUME,
PLEASE
PARDON
THE INTRU-
SION.



CLACK



WHY ARE
THE ONLY
SPIRITS THAT
SHOW UP
PLUNKS LIKE
THESE?!

THAT'S
NOT THE
CASE.

Did you
have a thing
for purple?
Damn, you
Reek a ROP
ROP
ROP

AND HERE
I AM, STUCK
WAITING FOR
A BIG-SHOT
TO COME
ALONG AND
EAT THE
IMPERT-
NENT
BRAT!

HEY
NOW,
CAT...



DON'T
JUST
INVITE
YOUR-
SELF
IN!

THE BOOK
JUST KEEPS
GETTING
THINNER
AND
THINNER.

HMPH,
MORE
NAMES
TO RE-
TURN?

THERE IS
A HUMAN
WE WISH
FOR YOU
TO SLAY.



WE KNOW
YOU HAVE
STRONG
SPIRITUAL
POWERS,
MASTER
NATSUME AND
WE'VE COME
TO ASK A
FAVOR.

WOULD
YOU BE
ABLE TO
HELP US,
MASTER
NATSUME?

Slay... a human?



WE ONLY
WANT TO
LIVE HAPPY,
CAREFREE
LIVES!

HAPPY
AND
CARE-
FREE
?

BUT IS
THERE
SERIOUSLY
A HUMAN
AROUND
WHO CAN
EXORCISE
SPIRITS?

THERE
IS!

SORRY,
IT MUST
BE
HARD

JUST
RECENTLY,
WHERE WE
LIVE IN
YAHARA, A
HUMAN HAS
TAKEN IT UPON
HIMSELF
TO BE AN
EXORCIST.

THOUGH I
SAY EXORCIST,
IT'S ALMOST AS
IF HE'S JUST
HAVING FUN
TRYING OUT HIS
IMPRESSIVE
SPIRITUAL
POWER.

※好きなもの

好きなものを知りたいとお手紙書いて嬉しく、熱く語りたいたちも多いのですが作者の趣味を知って作品に冷めてしまう方もいると愁いますので、おいおい出していけたらと愁っております。

※描きかた

「こういうシーンのあるこういう流れの話を描きたい」と愁って、それに合う子をそこに放り込んで動いてもらう。メガホン片手に追っかけていってスケッチする、という感覚で描いている気がします。特に学生さんのお話は、そこは右だー、左だーと指示を出しながら追っかけていって、セリフや動きは任せる感じです。なのでネーム中はかなり疲れますが、とても楽しいものでもあるのです。

LOOK,
NOT THAT I'M
FAMILIAR WITH
IT OR ANYTHING,
BUT I'M PRETTY
SURE I'D GET IN
HUGE TROUBLE
IF I KILLED
SOMEONE

Police
and all

THERE'S
NO WAY,
SORRY.

BUT AREN'T
YOU BEING
EXORCISED
BEFORE YOU
CAN ACTUALLY
SEE HIM?

MASTER
NATSUME
!!

STOP
TALKING
BEFORE
YOU DIG
YOURSELF
INTO A
HOLE.

WHY'D
YOU DO
THAT? IT
SEEMS
LIKE
FUN.

PUNISHING
HUMANS
IS MY
SPECIALTY.

How could I
possibly kill a
human-?

That means
he'd have to
know about
the spirits.

And that...
he can see
them. Just
like me...

BUT
STILL,
AN
EXOR-
CIST
...?

fwp
fwp
fwp

"AH, NO!
DON'T
TOUCH
ME!"



Just like
me...



"I'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
YOU."

"WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO COME
WITH ME?"



"EH...?
SURE, I
DON'T
MIND,
TAKASHI
..."

"AUNTIE,
CAN I STAY
HERE FOR
A WHILE?"

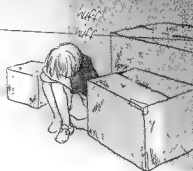


"HE'S
ALWAYS
MUTTERING
TO HIMSELF.
IT REALLY
CREEPS ME
OUT..."

"I WONDER
WHAT'S
GOING ON
NOW?"



WHY DO I
HAVE TO
SEE THOSE
THINGS?





"WHAT'S
WRONG?
ARE YOU
SICK?"

Am I a
weirdo?

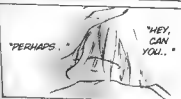


"I SEE YOU
AROUND A
LOT..."

...



"MY, YOU'RE
THAT BOY WHO
LIVES AROUND
HERE. THE ONE
WHO'S ALWAYS
BY HIMSELF,
RIGHT?"



...SEE
THEM AS
WELL?
THOSE
WEIRD
THINGS."



IT JUST FLOWED INTO ME, YOU AMATEUR.

WERE YOU PEEPIING INTO MY DREAM ?!



FROM BACK WHEN I WAS BEING PASSED BETWEEN FAMILIES.

A dream of when I was a little kid.

YOU REALLY WERE A PATHETIC KID. YOU'VE POLISHED UP.

EH...?



Takashi you're going to die!

Oh you want to get an cat? Start on today!

STAY AWAY FROM ME WHEN I'M SLEEPING!

CRACK

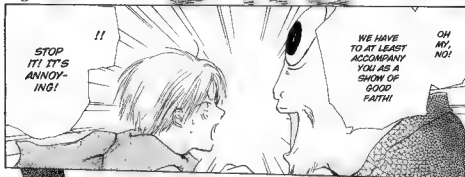


I'M OFF ..

GOOD MORNING

SO THEY ARE, NATSUME.

THEY'RE HERE AGAIN, CAT!





WHAT
ARE
THEY
DOING?



Why
do I feel
uneasy...?

MASTER
NATSUME.

....?



※ 悪人様

ネームも遅いですが作業も遅い私の原稿を手伝ってくださる方達います。原稿を良いものにするために才能を貸して頂いております。本当に悪人様なのです。初期の「あかく咲く声」や「アツイヒビ」「花の跡」「螢火の杜へ」以外は、矢張りどなたかのご助力がありました。

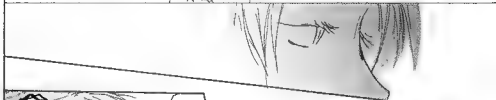
せっかくですので今回はこの「曼珠」にお力を貸して頂いた、大樹玉蔵さま、知華さまに、狭いスペースで恐縮ですが、イラストを描いて頂いてしまいました / うう、華々でございます。

ヘタレで落ちこんだり、曲に合うかバニクッたりしている時に、ご本人達も色々お忙しいのに「大丈夫よ、まかせて。」と受けとめてくださる本当に素敵で格好良い方達なのです。いつも尊敬させられてしまう作家お二方です。





"...CAN YOU PERHAPS SEE THEM AS WELL?"











WHAT
WAS
THAT?

BACK
WE
GO
HE
AIMED AT
L/S FROM
SOME-
WHERE
AND F RED
ONE OFF.

LOOK, IT
CLEARED
AWAY OUR
LITTLE
FRIENDS
QUITE
NICELY.

THOSE
WITH GREAT
POWER CAN
RELEASE
PURIFYING
WAVES.

RUSTLE



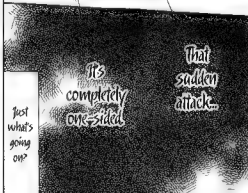
BUT
NOW THAT
THIS PLACE
HAS BEEN
PURIFIED,
THEY CAN'T
COME BACK
FOR A BIT.

OH
...
THANK
YOU

THEY
JUST
GOT
SCARED
AND RAN
OFF.



DID
HE RUN
AFTER
THEM...?



It's
completely
one-sided

That
sudden
attack...

Just
what's
going
on?

A purifying
wave...

ARE

THEY

...ALL
GONE
...?







Just moved to
Yahara...





Maybe Tanuma
can see the
things I see...

When I was a child, I saw a blue bird, and when I
looked it up, I found out it was called a "kingfisher."

When I was a child, I saw a blue animal, and
when I looked it up, I found out it didn't exist.

Walking alone
in such an
uncertain
world...
Was
really
scary.



So the things I see might not exist...



Heh
heh "WHAT A
WEIRDO!"

...



Rustle?

Heh
heh

"NATSUME'S
FREAKING OUT
OVER NOTHING
AGAIN!"

And nobody
understood.

Natsume Yuujinchou 1

...

DOES
THAT
MEAN
...
YOU
CAN
SEE
THEM?

MISS, YOU
ASKED IF I
COULD SEE
THEM AS
WELL...

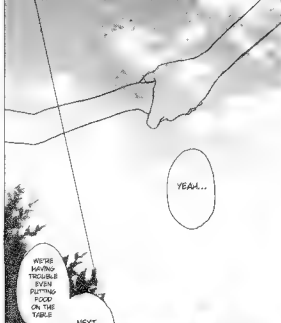


OH,
IT'S
YOU
AGAIN.



AM
I... A
WEIRDO
?





WHO
KNOWS

YEAH...

WE'RE
HAVING
TROUBLE
EVEN
PUTTING
FOOD
ON THE
TABLE

NEXT
MONTH
YOU'LL
LOOK
AFTER
HIM.



WE HAD
A DEAL,
REMEM-
BER?



I don't need
them...

They aren't
my family.

I just want
to grow
up...



Family...

People who
understand
me...

People who can
see the same
things as me...

I'm sure
they're around
somewhere...

I'll find them
by myself.



I KNOW
THAT,
BUT
STILL

I DON'T
HAVE A
FAMILY.

IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

DON'T BE
LONELY.

I'M
HERE
FOR
YOU...

ARE YOU
LONELY,
NATSUME?





NATSLIME

NATSLIME ?



GO
AWAY
!!



"...WANTED TO
TALK TO YOU."

"IT'S
JUST THAT I
REALLY..."

"I'M SORRY,
NATSLIME."



...CAT?

Silence



Pop

I
COULDN'T
FIND HIM
TODAY
...

I'M GOING
TO HAVE A
TALK WITH
TANUKI
TOMOR-
ROW

but I can't
keep crying
over it after-
wards.

I guess I
really am
drawn to the
uncertain.

I'M
BACK.

IT'S NOT LIKE
HE'S A GHOST
OR ANYTHING,
RIGHT...?

STAY
AWAY
FROM THE
FUTON!
SCAT!

DON'T
BE SO
COLD.

I
BROUGHT
YOU A
FROG AS
A GIFT.

RIHHHHH!

right
right

HGH,
YOU
SMELL
LIKE
SAKE!

HM ?

WHERE
WERE
YOU?

HEH
HEH,
JUST
OUT

fiddle
fiddle

I'M
BACK.

CAT...



杜はあしき
でせし僕もまふ

大樹玉織

人物の、ふんわりとした
表情に豊さを増してくださ
るほどの、淡さと美しさあ
るトーン削りの技はこの方。
丁寧なのに素早く、繊細さ
が技やデザインに出るお方
です。

いつもお会いすると
メロメロになります。



某先生の
あし。

作品のための
勉強を惜しまない
お方です。

先生の商売は
ちやあせいの
程ハッピー

CHIRP
CHIRP



THERE
YOU
GO.

HOP
HOP

HEY,
NATSUME
HMP
TANUMA?

DUNNO IF
HE'S WERE
HE DOESN'T
EXACTLY
STAND
OUT.

HE LIVES
AROUND
YAHARA,
RIGHT?

DON'T GET
CAUGHT BY
THAT STUPID
CAT AGAIN.

THE PLACE
IS FAMOUS
FOR ITS
GHOST
STORIES.

BAD
RUMORS
?

THAT'S
WHAT I
HEARD,
THOUGH
THE BLS
DOESN'T GO
THERE TOO
MANY BAD
RUMORS.

...NOTHING.
IT'S JUST
THAT YOU'RE
HARDLY
EVER INTER-
ESTED IN
ANYONE

WHAT?

LOOKS
LIKE
HE IS
ABSENT

DO YOU
KNOW HIS
ADDRESS?

EH?

THERE
USED TO
BE A TEMPLE
OUT THERE,
BUT I'M
PRETTY SURE
IT'S BEEN
ABANDONED

IS THAT
WHY THE
SPIRITS
PUT ON
SUCH AIRS?
WARR'S
AND
SAY
GEE
WAS
AT

GHOSTS,
YOU
SAY.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

...I
GUESS
SO.

AND SOME-
TIMES YOU
SUDDENLY
GO ALL PALE,
AS IF YOU
ARE SEEING
SOMETHING
REALLY
SCARY.

BUT HE
IS KINDA
LIKE
YOU, I
THINK

YOU'RE
LONERS,

YOU'RE
JUMPY,

Perhaps
Tanuma...

...is the
exorcist.

OVER TO
A FRIEND'S
PLACE TO
TALK.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING
NATSUNE?

He can
probably see
them.

AH, WHAT
HAPPENED
?!

MASTER
NATSUNE

HE
GOT US.
Dead on

LGH...

More-
over...

If he can,
he'll be the
first I've met
who's like
me

THE
EXORCIST
CAME
AGAIN?

He
may
be...

IF WE
REST AND
ABSORB
THE
EARTH'S
ENERGY,
WE'LL BE
FINE IN
A BIT

GOT IT
ARE YOU
TWO OK?

YES, AND
HE MAY
STILL BE
IN THE
FOREST

If he can see them...

But...

...the only
one who's
like me
at all.

If he can
actually see
them...

How can he do stuff like this?





YOU
HAVE THE

Tibet

THERE
YOU ARE,
NATSUME.

HEH, HEH!
YOUR FACE
IS AS
GOLD AS
REKO'S.



AND
ALSO, YOU
SAVED MY
SERVANT

THEN LET
MISUZU
HERE
HELP
YOU.

I DON'T
MIND
HELPING
OUT ONE
LAST TIME,
SINCE YOU
SAVED MY
SERVANT.

MISUZU

REKO

MISUZU

LORD MISUZU,
MASTER NATSUME,
THE WOMAN YOU
SEEK IS HIDDEN
SOMEWHERE IN
THAT FOREST.

DELIVER
JUSTICE!

HOW ABOUT
YOU GO
SLEEP AND
QUIT COM-
MENTING!

WHAT A
DREAD-
FUL
THING.
THAT
BOOK.

OH, MY.
JUST LIKE
WE'D EXPECT
OF YOU,
MASTER
NATSUME.
YOU'VE
EVEN
BOUND
MISUZU
TO YOUR
WILL.

AS
YOU
WISH.

WHOOO

WAIT
!

HEY,
NATSUME,
WAIT...!

NATSUME
!





USE
ITS
NAME
!

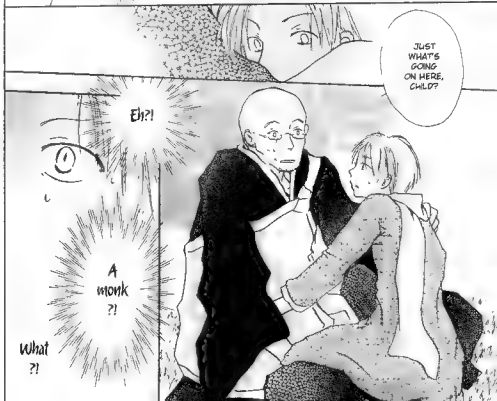
NATSUME,
COMMAND
IT!

oh!

STOP,
MISUZU
!!

bite





I
SUPPOSE
YOU
COULD
CALL HIM
A HARD
WORKER.

A NEW
MONK JUST
RECENTLY
CAME TO
THE OLD
ABANDONED
YAHARA
SHRINE.



HE START-
ED COMING
THROUGH
YAHARA
CONSTANTLY
AND PURIFY-
ING IT

WE WERE
WORRIED
BECAUSE HE'S
SO POWERFUL,
AND WE KNEW
THAT IF WE
COULD USE
YOUR POWER,
WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GET
RID OF HIM.

WOULD YOU
MIND TELLING
ME ONCE MORE,
WITHOUT LEAV-
ING ANYTHING
OUT, EXACTLY
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

It's not
Tanuma?!

The
exor-
cist.

Is this
monk?

Huh?

YOU
TWO,



Eh?!

HE CAN'T
SEE THE
SPIRITS?

WHAT
EXACTLY
HAVE YOU
BEEN
TALKING TO
ALL THIS
TIME?

YOU
KNOW,
YOU
GUYS...

So
you
set
me
up?

CHILD,

AHH,
WE'RE SO
SORRY!

EVERY
NOW AND
THEN HE
SENSES
THINGS,
AND IT
TAKES A
TOLL ON
HIM.

I
RECENTLY
CAME
TO THE
YAMAHARA
TEMPLE,
BUT...

THE
TRUTH
IS, MY
SON IS
SENSI-
TIVE...

HE DOESN'T
HAVE SPIRITUAL
POWER, BUT
RATHER BUDDHIST
POWER. INSTEAD
OF POWER YOU'RE
BORN WITH, IT'S
POWER YOU
GAIN PASSIVELY
THROUGH STUDY.

HE'S GOT
THAT MUCH
POWER, BUT
HE CAN'T
SEE US!!

PEACE
OF
MIND
??

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

That's why
he can't see
us even now

He must
have gained
a god's
favor and
received
divine pro-
tection

I'D HEARD
THAT THIS
AREA IS
FAMOUS
FOR ITS
GHOST
STORIES
...

WELL, I
SUPPOSE
YOU COULD
SAY THAT I'VE
MADE A HABIT
OF CLEANSING
THE AREA FOR
THE PEACE
OF MIND.





WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE

IT'S
PROBABLY
BECAUSE
WE'VE
TALKED AND
NOW WE'RE
"ACQUAIN-
TANCES."

LOOKS
LIKE
YOU DID
THOSE
SPIRITS A
FAVOR

IT
WASN'T
FOR
"SPIRITS."

WELL
NOW

BACK
THEN, THE
WHOLE
INCIDENT
REALLY
HURT ME,

THERE
WAS A SPIRIT
THAT TOOK
A WOMAN'S
SHAPE AND
SPOKE TO ME

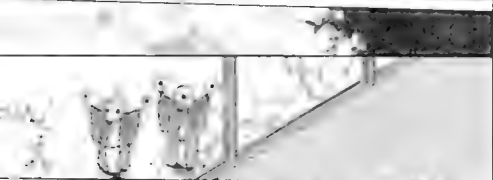
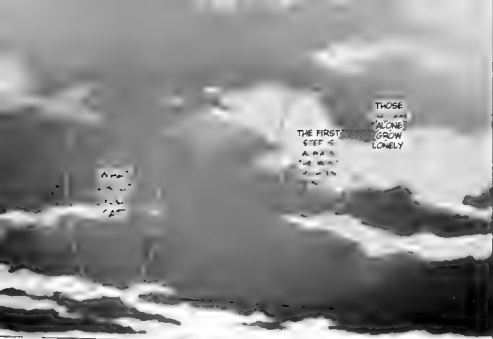
I CAN'T
EXPRESS
IT WELL, BUT
I RECENTLY
DISCOVERED
THIS.

Human
or not...

SO LONG
AS YOU'VE
GOT A
HEART,
WE'RE ALL
THE SAME

BUT WHEN
I THINK OF
IT NOW, I'M
GLAD I MET
HER.

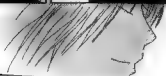
CAT ..





THOSE
WEIRD
THINGS
ON THE
GROUND ?

CAN
YOU
SEE
..



...NO.



I COULD
SEE TWO
WEIRD
SHADOWS.

FOR A
SECOND
THERE, IT'S
ALMOST
LIKE...



BUT .





I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

It's always
that first step
that's the worst
step.



I REALLY SHOULD EXORCISE YOU, YOU KNOW.

ANYWAY, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE MATCH IS DECIDED.

THOSE GUYS HAD STARTED UP A WAGER ON THE WHOLE MONK-SLAYING THING. THE POWERFUL MONK VERSUS REIKO'S GRANDSON.

UGH, CAT, YOU SMELL LIKE SAKÉ!

Are what
bring about
those trea-
sured bonds.

The very
interactions
that may be
accompanied
by grief...



THAT'S RIGHT ...

NOT AGAIN!

HERE, I BROUGHT YOU A MOUSE.



NATSUME, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU RETURNED MY NAME.

SORRY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE LATER. I'VE GOT SCHOOL.

CHATTER

I'M OFF ...

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO MISUZU

As always...



Notame Yumijindou

by Midorikawa Yuki

Dragon Voice &
Born in Heaven

The Credits

Scanner:
Lelci

Translator:
Kalendel

Editors:
Christopher &
mangawuniverse

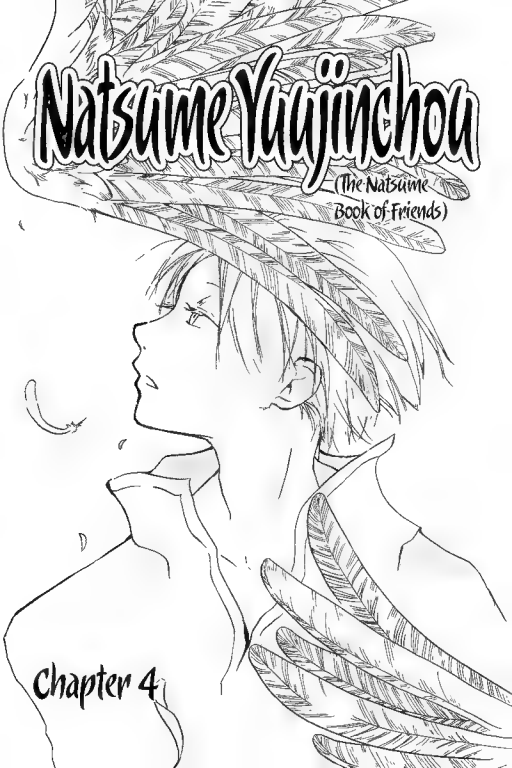
QC Checker:
Kalendel



DragonVoice.org

MidnightDragon

Natsume Yuujinchou



(The Natsume
Book of Friends)

Chapter 4

NO ONE
BESIDES.

10

4-22
SQUEAK

SNEAK

434

FULL
FALL
FULL
LAD
LAD
LAD

Our goal is the small dam in the heart of the

HLM?

There's a shrine and its gate.
Everything was sunk
underwater

BE ANY WATER
FISH, LEVEL
THERE? DED.

'SUNKEN VILLAGE'

Since
it's been
hot for
a while,
many
Dungs
started
to dry up

Y-YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

HE
CAN'T
SEE IT?

THERE'S
NO WAY
ANYONE'S
DOWN
THERE.

QUIT
IT,
NATSU-
ME

Then...

LOOK AT
THAT HOUSE,
SOMETHING'S
MOVING AROUND
THE WINDOWS

OH,
THERE'S
SOME-
ONE
THERE.

EHP?

Just
what
is it...?

HN?!

SWISH

HEY,
NATSUME
?!

WHAT'S
WRONG?!
ARE YOU
DIZZY?!
NATSUME
?!

THUD

Since it doesn't seem like anyone else can see them, they're most likely...

Ever since I was a child, I've seen strange things.

CHIRP
CHIRP



I HEAR
YOU FAINTED,
NATSUKE?



Cat's a spirit that came to live with me as my self-styled body-guard.

STUFF IT,
CAT.

WHAT A
WUSS.

What people would call spirits.



As well as those who come by to request that their names be returned to them.

HMM?

Since I'm now in charge of the book, my days are filled with dealing with both those who want it...



These contracts were bound together in the "Book of Friends."

In order to bind them to her will, my late grandmother, Reiko, wrote down and collected the names of a huge number of spirits.

For them, having their names taken is the same as losing control of their life.

Because of that, I really do try my best to give them back, but...

WHAT? THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM!

EXCUSE ME

SHIFF
SHIFF
SHIFF

YOU'RE

...WHAT?

EXCUSE ME

PLEASE ALLOW US TO ENTER.

UGH

THIS DROUGHT GIVES US A CHANCE. PLEASE RETURN OUR NAMES TO US SO WE CAN SLEEP IN PEACE.

YES, ONCE THE WATER RISES OVER IT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE EASILY.

WATER? DO YOU LIVE IN THAT SUNKEN VILLAGE UNDER THE DAM...?

ARE YOU NATSLME? WE WERE SLEEPING WITH OUR VILLAGE IN THE DEEP WATER, BUT NOW, BEFORE THE WATER RISES AGAIN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU RETURNED OUR NAMES.

FLOAT

Returning a name is simple.



All you have to do is bite down on the paper with the name and blow out sharply, and the name is released from the paper.



NATSUME, THANK YOU SO MUCH. AS A TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE, WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE IT THROUGH MY SPIRIT MIRROR?

HM?
SEE WHAT?

YOU JUST WENT AND RETURNED THEM! IDIOT!
THE BOOK OF FRIENDS KEEPS GETTING THINNER!

TIRE
...

But...
...doing that really saps my strength, and I didn't get through all of them until three in the morning.



POSSESSED
...?

.EM?

THE
THING
THAT'S
POSSESSED
YOU.

AH!

EEEK!

SO,
YOU ARE
POSSESSED.
I THOUGHT IT
SEEMED LIKE
A SPIRIT.



REALLY,
CAT?!

I'LL
KNOCK
IT OUT
FOR YOU!

I'LL
HANDLE
IT.

YEAH,
NOW BITE
DOWN
HARD.

EHP?

WHAT
NOW.



Was it
from that?







知華さまは、
未熟者が邪魔にしたい
本当に、邪魔でさ... ありがとうございます
大好きな夏目君のそば
にいさせてあげたい
です。



シュツと、
光よりも影が鋭い
感じのベタを塗れ
るお方です。ざっくりし
た線だけど描き込みは
繊細。ポップも写実も
こなす、マンガにパワフ
ルであろうとするお方。
本当の努力家。
尊敬しております。

にんごうの
おしは主殿！
さしの所へ
アリマシマ

YOU SEE,
THERE IS
SOMEONE I
WANT TO MEET
NO MATTER
WHAT. EVEN IF
IT'S JUST A
GLIMPSE FROM
FAR AWAY...



I COULDN'T
LEAVE THAT
SUNKEN
VILLAGE ON
MY OWN,

SO, WHEN
YOU HAPPENED
TO PASS BY, I
POSSESSED
YOU...



SOMEONE
YOU WANT
TO MEET
...?

YES. I THOUGHT
THAT IF I POS-
SESSED A BOY LIKE
YOU, THERE'D BE
A SMALL CHANCE
I'D BE ABLE
TO MEET H.M.





FOR-
GET
IT!

I WASN'T
ASKING YOU.
KEEP QUIET,
OLD FOX.



Uhhmm...

SO
PLEASE,
FOR
JUST A
FEW
DAYS,
**LET ME
POSSESS
YOU!**



JUST
LET ME
SLEEP...

AH
HA
HA
HA!

You up
for it
Shunpei?

Safe

How am I
a fox? How
dare a weak
little spirit like
you possess
Natsume!

THUD

THUD

And
so...



FWR FWR

CHIPP

CHIPP
CHIPP
CHIPP



I refuse
to speak to
a werewolf in
a mask

But really
that's a great
figure you've
got there.
What style
is that?



Next!
Natsume,
please
read.

We let the
strange spirit
possess me.

Maybe I'll
understand
one of these
days...

I don't
really
under-
stand...

But...

Why does
she want to
meet him so
badly?

GAAHHH,
THIS SUCKS!
I'M HELPING
YOU OUT
HERE, SO,
JUST TELL
ME ABOUT
WHO YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR!

I'D KNOW
HIM IF I SAW
HIM, BUT I
CAN'T DE-
SCRIBE HIM
IN DETAIL.

IS FUTABA
VILLAGE THE
ONE YOU LIVE
IN NOW, THAT'S
SUNK UNDER
THE DAM?

YES.

WHAT I DO
KNOW IS THAT
HIS NAME IS
TANIOZAKI, AND
HE LIVED IN
FUTABA
VILLAGE.

BACK THEN,
HE WAS IN
HIS TWEN-
TIES, SO HE
SHOULD
BE IN HIS
FOURTIES
NOW.

TW...
TWENTY
YEARS
AGO. .?

TWENTY
YEARS
AGO.

THEN,
WE CAN
START
LOOKING
FOR A
TANIOZAKI
WHO MOVED
FROM
FUTABA
VILLAGE,
RIGHT?

WAIT,
HOW LONG
AGO WAS
YOUR
VILLAGE
FLOODED?





CAN I
HOLD
YOUR
HAND?



NATSU-
ME,



QUIET,
YOU.

YOU
REAL-Y
ARE NICE,
NATSUME.
YOU
LET
ME
WALK
ALL
OVER
YOU.

HEH
HEH!

HA
HA
...

She must
be really
lonely...



Chirp
Chirp

I wanted to
say that the
cold felt
good.

IT'S
GOING
TO RAIN.

AH,
NATSU-
ME,

Chirp

EH?

I CAN
TELL.

I didn't
mean it
like that.

Chirp

YOUR
HANDS
ARE
COLD.

YEAH.

Ah...

Chirp
Chirp

I
THOUGHT
SO.

RUSTLE

NATSUME,
I CAME TO
GET YOU.

YES.

PRE-
DICTING
THE
WEATHER
...

A
BIRD!

YOU
USED TO BE
A SPARROW,
DIDN'T YOU?

I
SEE.



NATSUME,
HERE.

SHUT UP
BROTHER!

HM?

CHIRP
CHIRP

...to fill the
dam back
up.

CHIRP

The rain
that fell
wasn't
enough...

That night,
just like
she said,
it rained



JUST
WHAT ARE
YOU TWO
DOING?

SHUT UP
BROTHER!

I dreamt of five
swallows flying
freely in the
blue sky.



WHY'RE
YOU GUYS
FOLLOW-
ING US,
TOO?

NOW
LISTEN
HERE...

SEEMED
LIKE FUN.

AH!



I CAN
SMELL
HIM!

HE'S
CLOSE!

SO,

CHIRP
CHIRP



AN
ADDRESS
FOR TANI-
OZAK..

!

THANKS
!

そしてお姉さまには、
マンガにかかりきりな
時など、色^{いろ}で^ろ人^{ひと}で
片付けてくれたり、
食事の世話や、ベタトーン
の手伝いなど、本当に
感謝しております。

色んな方に協力して
頂いて、マンガを描き続け
させて頂いております。

一作一作成長して
いけるよう、走ってまいり
ますので今後もおつきあい
頂けるよう頑張ります。
新しい何かを掴めると
いいなと思っております。

2 おわり。



BUT SINCE
THE SCENT OF
MAN CLUNG TO
ME, OUR PARENTS
WOULDN'T COME
NEAR THE NEST,
AND ABANDON-
ED US.

A MAN
FOUND
ME THEN,
AND PUT
ME BACK
IN.

A LONG
TIME AGO,
WHEN I WAS
JUST A CHICK,
I FELL OUT
OF THE
NEST



And before
I knew it,
I'd become
a spirit.

I was
so very
very
sad.



I sur-
vived the
longest.

Since we
weren't able
to fly, my
siblings
died out
one by one.

He came
day after
day.

While I was
trapped as an evil
spirit, stuck
haunting a thicket, a
human came and
gave me food.

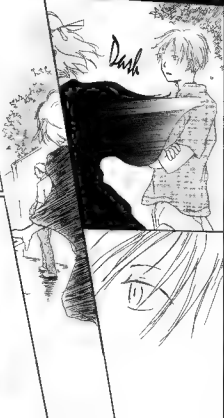
BUT JUST
FROM THE
SCENT OF THE
MAN WHO'D
PICKED ME UP,
I WAS ABLE TO
REMEMBER HIS
WARMTH.

Here,
puppy!

It didn't seem
like he could see
spirits, but since my
eyes could be seen glow-
ing in the darkness, I
think he must have
mistaken me for
a lost dog.

BUT
ONE
DAY...







NATSUME,
THANK
YOU.

WHY
..

Why
can't
he see
her?

Why can I
see them so
clearly?

clear-
ly...

I'LL
RETURN
TO
FUTABA.

So
clearly...





HEH HEH,
TRUTHFULLY,
I HAD ONCE
CONSIDERED
POSSESSING
HIM.

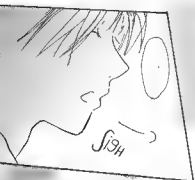
"RASH
HUMAN,
YOU'RE
MINE!"
THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.



BUT YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO GO BACK
TO THE
VILLAGE
ANYMORE,
RIGHT?

IT WAS LIKE
A DREAM.
I NO LONGER
HAVE ANY
REGRETS.

*But before I
knew it, I'd started
to like him.*



THANK
YOU.



AND SO,
NOW I'D LIKE
TO SLEEP IN
THE SAME
EARTH AS MY
SIBLINGS.

NATSUME,

NATSUME,

EVEN
IF THE
VILLAGE IS
SUBMERGED
AGAIN, I
DON'T
MIND

But it
almost
seems
as if she
wasn't
able to
actually
meet
him.

She was
able to see
the one
she wish-
ed to see.



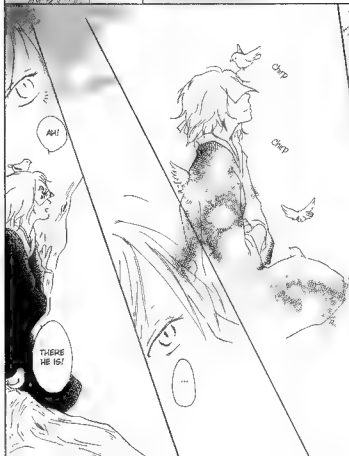
After that, I'd take Swallow out every day. And she'd watch him as he went to work.

That's why I don't like it.



THIS REALLY GOT TO ME, HUH.

AFTER ALL THAT, SHE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, JUST LOOK.



AH!

THERE HE IS!



SHE REALLY IS A SWALLOW.



HEY!

HEY!

HEY!

I
GUESS
THAT'D
WORK.

IT
WILL!

IF I
CLIMBED
IT, THE
BRANCHES
WOULD
BREAK
AND I'D
FALL.

YOU
WON'T FALL.
I'LL LEAD
YOU UP,
AND
YOU'LL
BE
FINE.

NATSUME
ME

HM?

WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO CLIMB
TREES WITH
ME TOMO-
ROW?
IT FEELS
GREAT
BEING
CLOSE TO
THE SKY.

HEH HEH,
THERE'S A
FESTIVAL
IN FUTABA
TONIGHT,
SO I'M
GETTING
SAKE.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

I'M
BACH!

HAH?

THANK
YOU FOR
LETTING ME
ENJOY THE
DAY AGAIN.

WHEN IT
WAS FLOODED,
WE COULDN'T
HOLD THE FES-
TIVAL ANYMORE,
BUT NOW THAT
IT'S DRY, WE'VE
DECIDED TO
HAVE ONE.

YEAH?

ARE
YOU A
FUTABA
BOY?

AS NIGHT
APPROACHES
IT'S BECOMING
A TERRIBLE
PLACE AND
ONE'S EVERY
FOUR YEARS
THE STRIPS
WOULD GATHER
AND HAVE A
FESTIVAL.

YES,
FUTABA
WAS USU-
GALLY
SPECIALLY
WITH DIFF-
ERENT
KINDS.

SURE
GOLD-
MOUNT

WE
REALLY
HAVE A
BLAST

DANCING,
DRINKING,
GAMBLING

WHAT
WAS
YOU
SAY?

AS WELL
AS A CONTEST,
WITH THE PRIZE
BEING A YUKATA*
THAT ALLOWS
THE WEARER TO
TAKE HUMAN
FORM FOR
ONE NIGHT.

*Note: A light kimono.

As much
a spirit as
she
could
hold her
form for
long.
And she
spirit
knaps
and
knaps
sleeping
some
where
in the
shadows.



DO YOU
WANT TO
COME,
NATSUME?

A
YUKATA
THAT GIVES
YOU HUMAN
FORM?

WE
REALLY
HAVE A
BLAST...

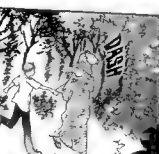


OH,
ARE YOU
INTERESTED?



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING,
NATSUME?

DASH



DASH



THE
FUTABA
FESTIVAL.

TCHI!

WHAT?!



HA!

YOU
WANT TO
TAKE HIM
ALONG AND
SERVE HIM
UP WITH
THE
DRINKS,
DON'T
YOU?!

THAT'S
YOU,
MADARA?
DON'T
INTER-
FERE!

IF YOU
GO TO A
SPIRIT
FESTIVAL,
NATSUME,
YOU'LL BE
EATEN!

EH?

WHAT?!
DO YOU
LIKE
CAUSING
TROU-
BLE?!

BUT
THAT
STORY
ABOUT
THE
YUKATA
IS REAL,
RIGHT?
I
DON'T
WANT
TO BE
AN
APPE-
TIZER,

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH EATING
HUMANS?
HAS SPENDING
SO MUCH TIME
WITH THE
HUMANS MADE
YOU WEAK,
MADARA?
HAVE YOU
GROWN
ATTACHED
TO THEM?!

YOU WANT
IT FOR THAT
WEAKLING?
THERE'S
NOTHING IN
IT FOR YOU,
NATSUME.

WHY
WOULD
YOU DO
SOME-
THING SO
FOOLISH?

Why...

BUT
I WANT
THAT
YUKATA.
CAT,
CAN YOU
TAKE
ME?

I'M THE
ONE WHO
GETS TO EAT
NATSUME!
THAT'S OUR
AGREEMENT,
YOU IDIOT!

THAT'S
NOT OUR
AGREE-
MENT!



SNAP

**STUPID,
STUPID BOY!
THIS IS WHY
I HATE
KIDS!**

*You're nothing
but noise!*

Shut up

**BECAUSE
I CARE!**

**THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG WITH
DOING SOME-
THING FOR A
FRIEND!**



DONE.



BUT THE FIRST ONE TO GET TO THE TOP OF THE CEDAR THERE AND TOUCH THE YUKATA, WITHOUT USING ANY SPIRITUAL POWERS, WINS.

YOU CAN MESS AROUND DURING THE OPENING.

IF THIS SLIPS OFF AND YOU'RE REVEALED, YOU'LL BE EATEN, SO, TAKE CARE.

BY BLENDING MY BLOOD INTO THE BARK AND DOING THIS, THE SPIRITS WON'T REALIZE YOU'RE HUMAN



ARE YOU ALSO GOING TO STAY HERE? EVEN WHEN IT GETS FLOODED?

WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME LIKE THIS?

SEEMS MORE FUN THAN EATING YOU



THANKS, TARU-SAN!

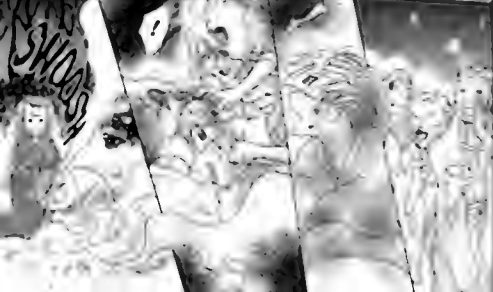
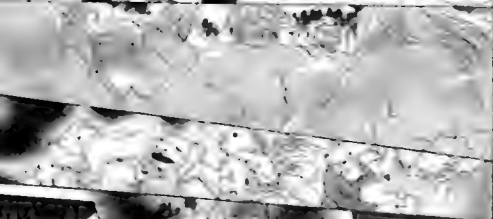
I SUPPOSE

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, LEAVING IS NEVER EASY

OH, IT'S BEGUN. HAVE FUN.

THUMP THUMP

WASH



FW
WS
SHH

Grip

I'LL
SCATTER
THEM,
NATSUME
!

LET'S
GO!

III

Where is he?

Where?

And the
memory
of that man's
gentle hands.

Along with the lives
of my tiny siblings...

Though
I have
already
vanished...

It all turns
black and I
forget...

Such sorrow...

Haired...

I wonder
if that man
will come
again today?

...SWA-
LLOW.

SWAL-
LOW.

I HEARD
THAT
TANIOZAKI
IS GOING
TO TAKE
PART IN
THE LOCAL
FESTIVAL
TONIGHT.

WAKE
UP,
SWAL-
LOW.

NATSU-
ME...?

YOU
SHOULD
WEAR THIS
AND GO.

EH?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU?

SWAL-
LOW.

AH, IT'S
GOING TO
RAIN TO-
NIGHT...

HUH
?

I
DOUBT
ANY
HUMANS
WILL BE
ABLE TO
HEAR
YOU.

IT'S
ONLY
EFFECTIVE
FOR THIS
ONE NIGHT.
AND SINCE
YOU DON'T
HAVE MUCH
POWER,

THIS
YUKATA
...!

IF YOU
KEEP THAT
ON, YOU
CAN GO BY
YOURSELF.

SORRY,
BUT I'M
TOTALLY
BEAT, SO,
I CAN'T
GO.



NATSUME.

THAT
MEANS
I LIKE
PEOPLE,

THANK
YOU,
NATSUME.

THANK
YOU,

I'M OFF,
NATSUME!

Was
the last I
saw of
Swallow.

Just as she
said, it rained
that night...

And for
three more
days after.

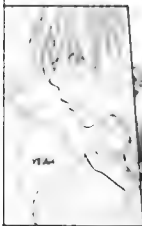
I
WONDER IF
SWALLOW
RETURNED
TO THE
VILLAGE.

Futaba village
was once more
sunk under-
water.

And
that...

"I'm off!"





TEAM



IF
YOU'RE NOT
POSSESSING
SOMEONE, A
SPIRIT THAT'S
TIED TO A PLACE
CAN'T LEAVE
THAT PLACE.
RETURNING
THERE IS EASY,
THOUGH.

Swallow, did
you manage to
meet him?

NO NO
THAT'S ALL
NO 8

I
WONDER IF
SHE FOUND
ETERNAL
PEACE.

AND ONLY
MOVE...

I'm going
to go to
sleep early
today.

I'd like to dream
of five swallows
flying in the
sky.

Sweet
dreams.

Goodnight,
Swallow,



CHIRP

...WILL
YOU STAY
WITH ME
UNTIL
THE END,
CAT?

CHIRP

YOU
KNOW,
NATSUME,
YOU REALLY
LIKE SHOW-
ING OFF.

HM?
DOES
THAT
MEAN I
CAN EAT
YOU?

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

YEAH?



HMM,

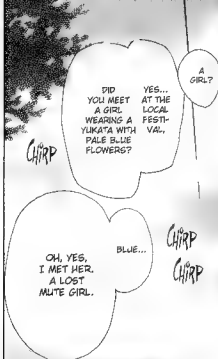
I
WONDER
...

MAYBE
YOU'LL
GET
ATTACHED
TO ME
SOMEDAY,
TOO.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

AH!







I like
humans,
too.

That's
right.

We all
like hearts
that seek
something
dear.

And
spirits.
every
one.

People.
Animals.

Kind
things.
Warm
things.

And burn
with life.

あとがき



おつかれさまでした。いかがでしたでしょうか。
シリーズ物をまったくの読切作品として描くというのははじめてで、色々悩むこともあるのですが、読者さんに入ってもらいやすいと思うとやはり嬉しくなってきます。どこまでこの手法で通せるかわかりませんが一作一作最終回な気持ちと気合いで描いていければと思っています。夏目は今までのどのキャラクターよりも感性が貧弱というか端的で、描きとる側としては味気なさに苦勞させられます。感想などを聞かれた時のボキャ貧度は、私に一番近い子で、どうしてこんな子にしてしまったんだろうといつも思わされます。しかしそういう感覚の乏しさを埋めようと、行動に出る夏自がやはり作品には合っている気もしています。
優しくありたいと思っている男の子のお話です。

第一話
ニャンコ先生 登場！



可能なら後切シリーズとして描きたいと本心を担当様にお話して描いた作品です。しかし主観とゲストの割合の難しさに二人でうわああ？と悩んだ作品でした。当事者(話の柱になる人)が主人公な話を

描くのもほぼなかったことなので、
 どういうテンションで作風を流すのかがかなりギリギリまで迷いました。

始まり方を何度もかえ、色々試しましたが今のニャンコ先生登場シーンまでの流れを見つけないことが出来てからは、何となく「夏目」のスタンスがわかったような気がしました。

セーラー服姿の娘さんを、「おばあさん」と呼ぶ、
 そういう不思議な立場の男の子が描きたかったお話でした。

第二話
露神

せっかくなので恋愛色を少し入れてみようという形にしてみました。50Pももらっているので機微もきっちり入れないと、というスレッシャーもありまして。(シリーズ化もかかっている！)浅みなどに埋もれている祠を見ると、ここにいらっしゃる神さまはお寂しいだろうかとか、それでもみかんなどが時々あがっていると、この人がいるかぎりお務めなさるだろうなと思って出来たお話です。でも最後まで面倒見れないものに手を出すな、という気持ちもあって描きました。小さいものがちょろちょろ動く、鳥獣戯画のような雰囲気が出せればと思って挑戦しました。可愛くて気味悪いものが表現できるようになりたいてと痛感しました。けれど描いていてとても楽しかったです。





第三話 夏目、人間退治

そろそろ、思ぬきをしたくなり、好きな感じで描かせて頂き
ました。(多少のハツタリが
入る。)妖怪退治は割と多いので、
人間退治でもしようかと思い
出来たお話です。そして何より
夏目は一話二話と、人という時間より
妖というほうが多かったのも、
「夏目、人間の友達をつくる」
というテーマとしてありました。

何かこう読み終わった後、「夏目、
良かったね、友達出来た。」とちょっと
夏目にとって恥ずかしい感想を持って
もらえるように作ってたかったので、うまく
いってれば嬉しいです。
時々こういうのも挟ませて頂けるとありがたい
です。

第四話 ダム底の燕

割とダムについては身近に話題になる所に住んで
いたので、夏目といえばダムの干あがり、ということで
雨が降るまでのリミットがある話、せっかくだから
雨に関係する生物が妖怪という流れで
出来たお話です。久しぶりの40ページ続切
にこれまたビヤビヤ致しました。クールぶっていて、
友人様というすごいものを持っているくせに
取りつかれるという、夏目のどん臭さが
出ていればいいなあ。燕ということで
黒髪ストレートのべったりした髪を描こう
としたのですが、どうしてもしっとりこず、
こういうふんわりした髪の子に変えたら
びたりときました。怒さも少し
出したくて、表情は読ませず
に。でもこうして見ると、妖怪ウエービー率が
高いですね。夏目がベタツとしてるからかな？



ニャンコ先生について

小さい頃とてもお世話になった年配のご夫婦の家から
招き猫を頂いたことがありました。とても魅力的な顔の
猫ちゃんで大切にしていたのですが、割れてしまいました。
泣く泣くボンドと紙ねんどで修復し、今もまだ
実家の一室にあります。その顔を思い出しつつ
描いたのがニャンコ先生です。夏目の相方に、
鳥か猫がいいと思い、怪しさのある招き猫
にしておもうと出来たキャラクターでした。

さてさて、ここまでおつきあい頂き
本当にありがとうございました。
夏目とは行けるところまでいって
みたいと思っています。
大切に創っていきますので
また機会がありましたらぜひひ
よろしく願い致します。

よろしければご意見ご感想おきかせください。

〒101-0063

東京都千代田区神田

淡路町2-2-2

白泉社LaLa編集部

緑川ゆき

・ 恩人様達 ・

大樹 五織 さま

知 華 さま

佐 藤 さま

お 師 さま

ありがとうございました。

また 手にとって頂けるような作品を描けるよう
頑張ります。 再会を願いつつ。

緑川 ゆき

2005. 8

あとがき／おわり